production, the present oil reserves of India will last for about 22 years. However, each year some additional reserves are added. Therefore, reserves for oil & gas will last for a longer period.

(b) The following steps are being taken to curb the growth rate of consumption of petroleum products in the country;

(i) Conservation of petroleum products through;

— multi-media campaign for creating mass awareness for conservation of petroleum products

— adoption of measures and practices which are conducive to increase fuel efficiency and training programme in the transport sector

— modernisation of boilers, furnaces and other oil operated equipment and promotion of fuel efficient practices

— standardisation of fuel efficient irrigation pump-sets and rectification of existing pump-sets to make them more energy efficient in the agricultural sector

— development and promotion of fuel efficient equipment and appliances like kerosene and LPG stoves in the household sector

— application of fuel efficient technologies.

(ii) Encouraging use of alternative sources of energy including substitution of petroleum products.

Patenting of Indigenous Petroleum Technologies

2568. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have thought of patenting indigenous petroleum technologies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per CSIR policy, if any R&D work leads to such development where Intellectual Property rights can be secured, patents are filed. Accordingly, ONGC, IOC, CRL and IIP have filed applications for patents in the areas of Petroleum Refining, Petrochemical Intermediates, Catalysis, Products and Industrial & Domestic Appliances usign petroleum fuel, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal for Piped LPG in Andhra Pradesh

2569. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering supplying piped gas to various plants, cities etc.;

(b) if so, what is the basic criteria for selecting population centres for arranging piped domestic LPG;

(c) have any centres been selected in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada would be ideal locations for pilot projects; and

(f) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Based on the criteria of availability of gas and techno-economic feasibility, natural gas is being supplied through pipeline in some parts of Delhi and Mumbai cities through two joint venture companies formed by GAIL in association with M/s Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd. and M/s British Gas, UK, respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No assessment has been made.

Production of BHT and DBPC by Balmer Lawree and Company

2570. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be

pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Balmer Lawree and Company, a Government of India Undertaking, had stopped their production of Bytylated Hydroxy Toulene (BHT) or Dibutyl, Cresol (DBCP); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of Butylated Hydroxy Toulene - BHT (Di Tertiary Butyl Para Cresol - DBPC) has been suspended in view of substantial drop in demand for BHT (DBPC) in India. As per projections, the demand for this product in 1998-99 was supposed to be more than 2000 MT. Against this, the actual demand for this product by potential customers such as IPCL, IOC, HPC, etc. was around 400 MT only. This was unviable volume, even at 100% market share. Therefore, the production was suspended. Drop in demand is attributed to lower sale of the finished products such a Butyl Rubber and LDPE. Further, some of the customers have replaced this product with cheaper substitutes.

Exploitation of Natural Gas detected in Barmer District of Rajasthan

2571. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be plased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge reserves of Natural Gas has been detected recently in Rajasthan's border district of Barmer, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the time by when the process of tapping the reserves would begin;

(c) the details of gas reserves detected during last five years in the country; and

(d) the approximate requirement of natural gas in the country as on date and the actually available.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the years 1993-94 to 1997-98, 24 new finds of free gas have been made, which lead to the accretion of 21.3 84 BCM of free gas.

(d) The current requirement of existing gas consumers is to the extent of 75.76 Million Standard Metric Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD), while the current supply is at the level of 61.06 MMSCMD.

ONGC investment in EOR programme

2572. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. plans to invest about Rs. 2,000 crore in its enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) programme for its Bombay High offshore oilfield;

(b) if so, what is the objective expected to be achieved; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. ONGC is yet to identify suitable EOR process for Bombay High field.

Discrimination in Supply

2573. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil corporation fixes the quantity of MS and HSD transferred to its COCO retail outlets only on the basis of temperature @15°C instead of the actual quantity according to the capacity of tankers;

(b) whether the same is also applicable in case of dealers operated retail outlet, and what steps are being taken / proposed to be taken to abolish and discrimination with dealers's owned retail outlets; and

(c) the reasons for this discrimination and the details on dealership commission vide letter No. P20027/8/82 PP dated the 16 May, 1983?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND